

The testes of the sloths are retained within the abdomen, lying close together on the rectum.

In the aard-vark the testes occupy an intermediate position within the inguinal canal, but here there is reason to believe that they descend into the scrotum during the mating season.

The testes of active creatures like ungulates, carnivores, and primates lie within a post-penile scrotum, where they are free from violent changes in pressure and are kept in the position of greatest safety.

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THE ROYAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL, BELFAST

THE great medical unit which is rapidly taking shape around the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, is carried one stage nearer completion by the erection of the new Royal Maternity Hospital. This Hospital, which is to be officially opened, on the invitation of Her Grace the Duchess of Abercorn, by Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, on 21st October, 1933, replaces the incorporated Belfast Maternity Hospital founded in 1793. The old hospital did excellent work, but the immense advances in the science of obstetrics, and the growing need of an increasing population, rendered a new and modern hospital an absolute necessity. The plans of the new buildings were drawn up only after exhaustive study of modern practice both at home and abroad, and after the very latest maternity hospitals had been inspected in the U.S.A., Canada, the Continent, and Great Britain. And it is the firm belief of those competent to judge that the new Royal Maternity Hospital is in advance of anything at present in existence.

The hospital has been designed for one hundred maternity beds, and has been erected at a cost of £104,000. Unfortunately, sufficient funds have not been forthcoming to build a Nurses' Home, and the Committee of Management has been compelled, until this sum is provided, to allocate a portion of the building for the accommodation of the nursing and domestic staffs, thereby reducing the number of beds for maternity cases to sixty. Even with this regrettable reduction it is

pleasant to know that the new hospital has more than twice the number of beds available at the old hospital in Townsend Street.

The hospital includes the following :—

A large Ante-Natal Out-Patient Department, where expectant mothers attend for advice and treatment. Here also mothers are encouraged to bring their babies periodically after they leave the hospital, for examination and advice.

Labour Suites where the confinements take place. These constitute a separate nursing unit with its own staff. There are four one-bed wards in which patients may spend the early stage of labour. In addition to the labour wards, which are equipped in all respects like operating-theatres, there is a theatre for cases which require operation, such as cæsarean section, etc.

There are two maternity ward units, each of twenty-one beds, and a number of small wards. Each bed has its own light, and there is a push-bell which causes an indicator to buzz in the nurses' duty room, and lights an electric lamp to indicate from which bed the call comes.

A series of nurseries for infants is also installed. The nurseries form a separate unit under the charge of a sister, and are under the general supervision of a pædiatrician. As no visitors are allowed to enter the nurseries, inspection windows are provided for interested relations. There are four nurseries for healthy babies, one for premature infants, and two for sickly infants who for any reason require isolation. Specially constructed trolleys carry the infants, in groups of four, to their mothers at stated intervals. The design of the nurseries is new in this country.

A special feature of the hospital is the complete separation of septic and other abnormal cases in isolation wards. These wards are provided with their own theatre, treatment room, nursery, and staff. They have been named after the late James Rea, of Belfast, who through his executors bequeathed the sum of £25,000 towards the erection of the hospital.

The educational side of the hospital has been fully developed. It comprises a classroom for the instruction of nurses and students, study rooms, accommodation for post-graduate workers, and laboratory for bacteriological and biochemical examinations.

The entrance hall, too, is worthy of special mention. It has been made beautiful by a carved stone plaque, by Miss Praeger of Holywood, symbolical of Maternal Love. This plaque is the gift of Mrs. Maitland Beath, as a memorial to her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Young.

R. H. H.

THE LISBURN AND DISTRICT MEDICAL GUILD

THE annual meeting of the Guild was held during April at Dr. Hunter's, Dunmurry. Dr. Colquhoun was elected president, and Dr. Peatt was again elected secretary and treasurer. The report and statement of accounts having been accepted and passed, Mr. H. C. Lowry was called upon to deliver his paper : "Some Obstetric